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BRIEFING

CELEBRATING • OUR • SESQUICENTENNIAL



JUNE 2008

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BOOK'EM**WANTED: YOUR USED BOOKS**

THE BLOOMINGTON Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) is collecting books for its 16th annual used book sale. The Book'em sale takes place June 7 - 21, at 9801 Lyndale Ave. S.

Proceeds from the sale help fund crime prevention and awareness programs, the Bloomington Police Explorers and the Bloomington Police Department. For more information and a list of used book drop-off sites, call 952-220-2537 or visit the BCPA Web site at www.bcpamn.org.

**LYLE BERG BRIDGE
APPROACH RAMP REPAIR
COMPLETE**


REPAIRS WERE RECENTLY MADE to the approach on the west side of the Lyle Berg Bridge on American Boulevard. The City monitored the bridge and approach after cracks were observed in the pavement between the retaining walls leading up to the bridge. The bridge itself was not affected and is structurally sound. Repairs were completed in May.

**REPUBLICAN NATIONAL
CONVENTION
PLANNING EFFORTS UNDERWAY**

THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL Convention is coming to the Twin Cities September 1 - 4. It is estimated that convention attendees, media and others will occupy 20,000 hotel rooms per night during their visit. As Bloomington has more hotel rooms than downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul combined, it's likely that almost 30 percent of the convention's hotel room inventory will be in Bloomington. To prepare for this influx of visitors, Bloomington is working with federal agencies and leaders in Minneapolis and St. Paul to ensure a safe and organized event.

Look for more details in the August Briefing.

THE PAHL FAMILY FARMING RHUBARB ON LYNDALE AVENUE

FRANK JOSEPH PAHL was born on April 23, 1863, in Minnestrista, Minnesota. Sometime between 1905 and 1910 he settled in Bloomington and built a home at 8332 Lyndale Ave. S. He and his five sons (Andrew, Herman, Edward, Richard and Theodore) and their families farmed 180 acres of land along Lyndale Avenue from 80th to 84th Street and west to Humboldt Avenue. Today, part of this farm is a parking lot for the Perkins Restaurant on Lyndale Avenue.

In 1926, Pahl's son Richard built a home at 8316 Lyndale Ave. S. Richard Pahl and his brothers mainly raised vegetables; however, they soon found their niche producing rhubarb. During the winter, the brothers worked side-by-side selling

BLOOMINGTON - YESTERDAY

Photo courtesy of Greg Faust.

rhubarb raised in an underground root cellar. By 1940, they were the largest rhubarb producers in the Midwest.

Although the Pahl brothers continued to farm, they sold part of their land in 1953 for residential development.

MALL OF AMERICA PHASE II 2008 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

THE MINNESOTA State Legislature has approved authority for additional funding sources and state revenue bonds to be used toward development of the Mall of America's second phase, which will include a mixed-use center with retail, hotel, office, residential and entertainment uses.

In its 1988 agreement with the Mall of America Company, the City of Bloomington and the Port Authority developed a formula for funding public improvements for future phases.

Bloomington has realized significant positive returns on its investment in the Mall. Developments in the vicinity of the Mall have added 1,837 hotel rooms and \$138 million to the City's tax base. The Mall has attracted major infrastructure improvements such as light rail that, in turn, are driving the construction of the \$600 million Bloomington Central Station transit-oriented development. In addition, Bloomington's General Fund receives \$1 million in taxes from the Mall each year, over and above the cost of services. The State of Minnesota also benefits: in 2007 Mall of America Phase I generated nearly \$26 million in state sales tax revenues, \$11.6 million in state income taxes and \$5.7 million in property taxes – a total of \$43 million.

It was originally intended that public improvements related to a second phase of the Mall would be constructed using tax increment financing (TIF) revenues which were utilized to help fund the first phase. However, in 2001, state property tax reform legislation shifted a portion of the commercial property tax receipts directly to the state, reducing revenues to the City for the TIF District by 45 percent, or approximately \$5.6 million per year.

Due to the significant tax revenue that the State receives from the Mall and up to 7,000 construction jobs and 7,000 permanent jobs that could be created by Mall of America Phase II, the Legislature was asked to consider additional financing for the second phase. Prior to the end of the legislative session on May 19, the Legislature approved financing for Phase II which includes new local taxes that, if adopted, would be on hotel admissions and mall venues and would not be imposed on residential or commercial/industrial property owners.

Presently, the City and the Mall of America are evaluating the second phase based on legislative action.



For more information, contact Jill Hutmacher, Acting Port Authority Administrator, at 952-563-8541 or at jhutmacher@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



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